

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 STR-04 AGR-01 AID-05
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 EA-09 FRB-01 INR-07
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TRSE-00 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01 /123 W
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R 141405Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5274
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY
USDOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF

UNCLAS ROME 9775

USEEC

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SUBJ: CGIL CONVENTION CONCLUDES

REF : ROME 9462

1. THE SIX-DAY NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE LARGE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED LABOR FEDERATION CGIL CAME TO A PREDICTABLE CONCLUSION ON JUNE 11. A CLOSE COMPARISON OF LAMA'S KEYNOTE ADDRESS (REFTEL) WITH THE ULTIMATE DOCUMENTS ENACTED BY A SHOW OF HANDS SHOW ONLY NOMINAL DIFFERENCES. THUS, ALL OF LAMA'S PROPOSALS FOR THE REDUCTION OF LABOR COSTS AND THE SIMPLIFICATION OF REMUNERATION SYSTEMS WERE APPROVED.

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2. PRIMARY PRESS ATTENTION WAS FOCUSED ON THE CGIL POLITICAL DECLARATIONS. THESE CALLED FRANKLY AND HOLDLY FOR FULL PARTICIPATION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN THE GOVERNING PROCESS, "AS PART OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL ARC" -- A PHRASE OF ART MEANT TO INCLUDE ALL PARLIAMENTARY PARTIES EXCEPT FOR THE EXTREMES OF LEFT AND RIGHT. IN EXCHANGE, THE LABOR MOVEMENT, WHILE NOT ASSUMING AN UNCRITICAL POSTURE, WOULD COOPERATE FULLY IN THE

AUSTERITY MEASURES SUCH A GOVERNMENT WOULD REQUIRE.

3. CONTRARY TO IMPRESSIONS GAINED FROM THE PRESS, INTERNATIONAL MATTERS WERE TREATED AT SOME LENGTH BY LAMA AND THE CONVENTION DOCUMENTS. THSE, TOO, WERE CHARACTERIZED BY STATEMENTS OF STRIKING MODERATION, IN CONSIDERABLE CONTRAST TO THE WAY IN WHICH THE SAME THEMES HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN HANDLED IN THE PAST. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST WAS THE DECLARATION THAT "WE WISH TO EXTEND OUR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS BEYOND THEIR CURRENT LIMITS: ALSO WITH THE AMERICAN UNIONS WITH WHICH, THOUGH THEY DIFFER FROM THE CGIL AND SUSTAIN POSITIONS WE DO NOT SHARE, WE ARE PREPARED TO ESTABLISH RELATIONSHIPS OF COLLABORATION." MULTINATIONALS CAME IN FOR CRITICISM, BUT THE UNITED STATES WAS NOT MENTIONED AT ALL IN THIS CONTEXT. SIMILARLY, VARIOUS LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WERE HAILED, THE STRUGGLES OF OTHER THIRD WORLD PEOPLES CELEBRATED AND RIGHT WING SUPPRESSIONS CONDEMNED, BUT AGAIN THE U.S. WAS NOT MENTIONED.

4. THE CGIL ALSO EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH BOTH THE ICFTU AND THE WCL. WITH RESPECT TO THE MIDDLE EAST, THE CGIL DOCUMENT DECLARES "IT IS NECESSARY TO GUARANTEE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE THEIR OWN NATIONAL STATE, AND TO RESPECT THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE UN AND THE INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY OF ALL THE STATES (IN THE AREA), NATURALLY INCLUDING ISRAEL." THE FACT THAT THESE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL STATEMENTS RECEIVED VIRTUALLY NO NOTICE IN THE ITALIAN PRESS IS A FUNCTION OF ITALIAN INTROSPECTION RATHER THAN ANY LACK OF TREATMENT OF THESE THEMES BY THE CGIL CONVENTION.

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5. RUMOR OF THE WEEK AT THE CGIL CONVENTION, AND HOW BEING BRUITED ABOUT AMONG CISL CONTACTS IS THAT AT THE ILO, ALDO BONACCINI, CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS FOR THE CGIL, VOTED FOR IRVING BROWN AS WORKER VICE PRESIDENT. (SEE GENEVA'S 4346 NOTAL)

6. CONVENTION DOCUMENTS, ALONG WITH FURTHER ANALYSIS OF THE CGIL PROCEEDINGS, WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOLLOWING THE MUNICH LABOR ATTACHE CONFERENCE.GARDNER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition History: n/a
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